

# Direct neutrino-mass measurement based on 259 days of KATRIN data

**Alexey Lokhov**  
on behalf of the  
KATRIN collaboration

Karlsruhe Institute  
of Technology,  
Germany



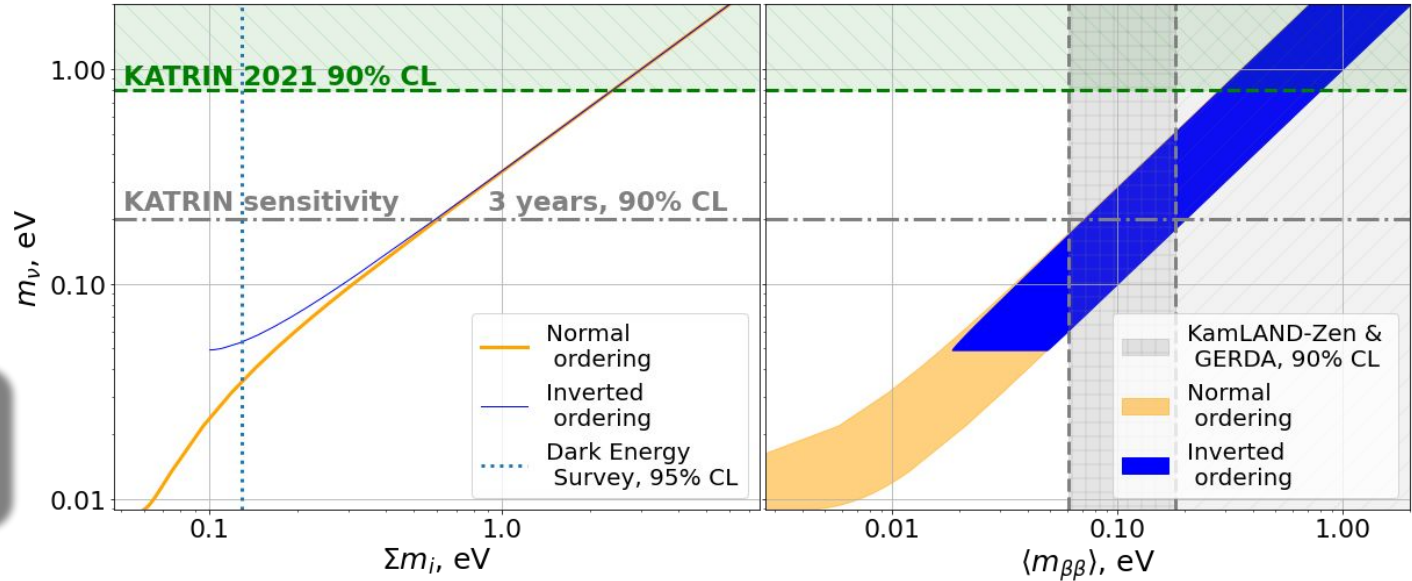
XXXI International Conference on  
Neutrino Physics and Astrophysics

Milano (Italy) - June 16-22, 2024

# Neutrino mass observables

Direct  
neutrino mass  
determination

See also  
overview by  
A. Nucciotti



Cosmological observables

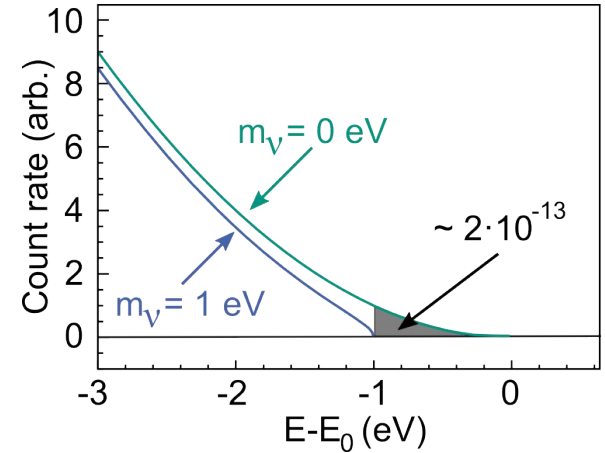
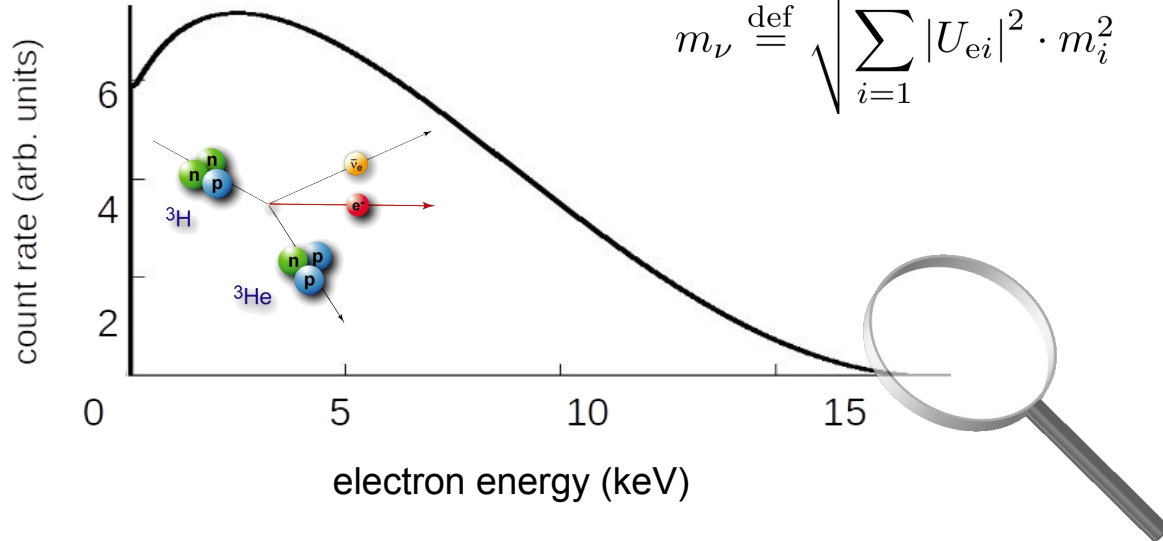
Neutrinoless double  $\beta$ -decay

# Neutrino mass in tritium $\beta$ -decay

Measurement of effective mass  $m_\nu$  based on **kinematic parameters & energy conservation**

$$R_\beta(E) \propto (E_0 - E) \sqrt{(E_0 - E)^2 - m_\nu^2}$$

$$m_\nu \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^3 |U_{ei}|^2 \cdot m_i^2}$$



# Neutrino mass in tritium $\beta$ -decay

Measurement of effective mass  $m_\nu$  based on **kinematic parameters & energy conservation**

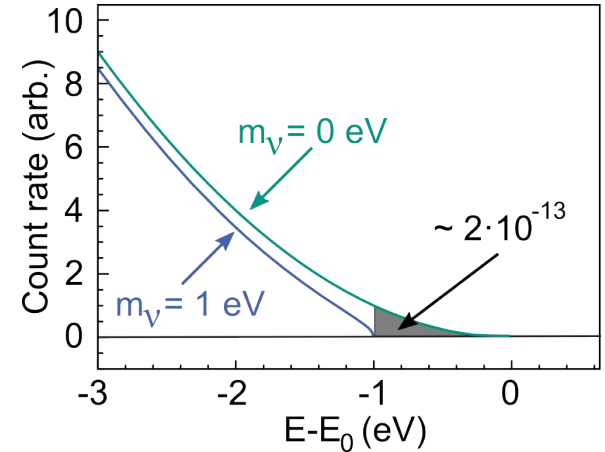
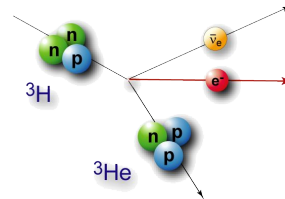
$$R_\beta(E) \propto (E_0 - E) \sqrt{(E_0 - E)^2 - m_\nu^2}$$

$$m_\nu \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^3 |U_{ei}|^2 \cdot m_i^2}$$

Experimental challenges:

- High source **activity**
- Excellent energy **resolution** ( $\sim 1$  eV)
- Low **background** ( $\ll 1$  cps)
- Spectrum and response **model**

$\Rightarrow$  Tritium:  $E_0 = 18.6$  keV,  $T_{1/2} = 12$  yr

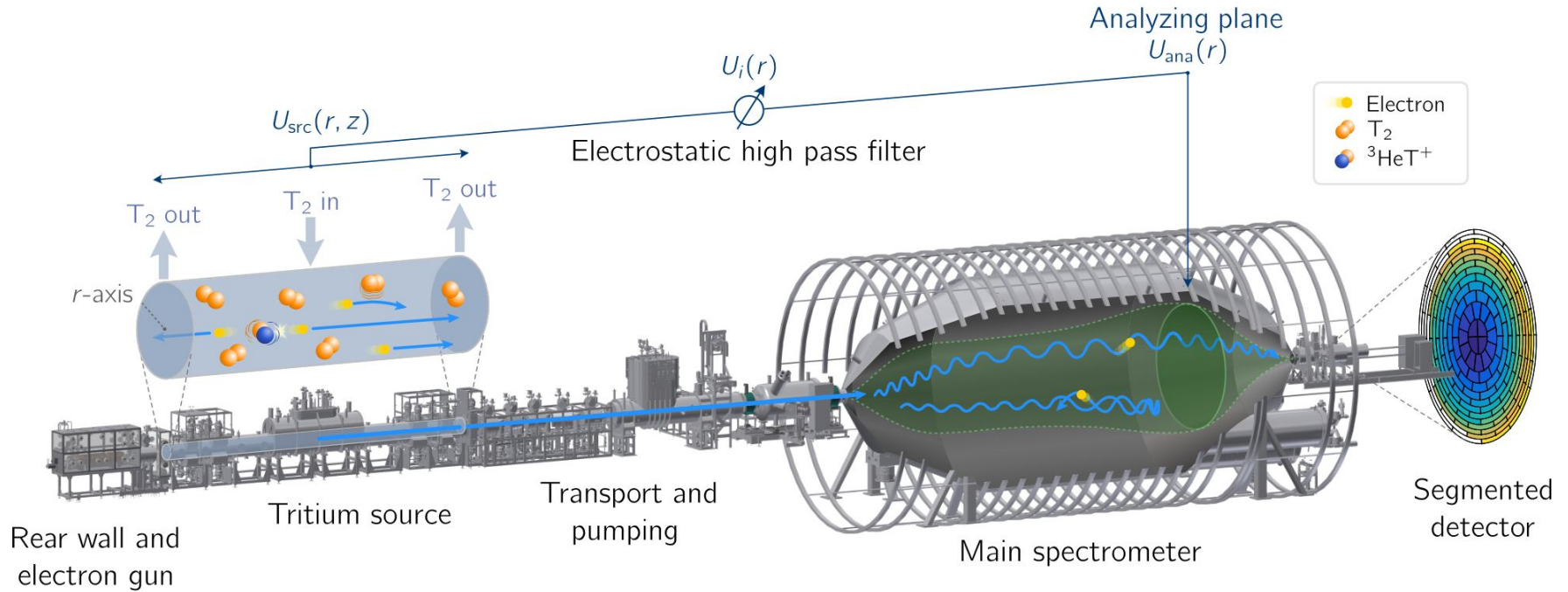


**KATRIN:**  
**Karlsruhe**  
**Tritium**  
**Neutrino**  
**Experiment**





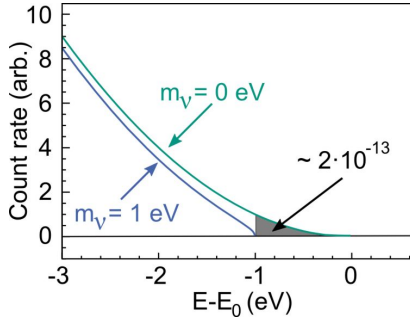
# The KATRIN experiment



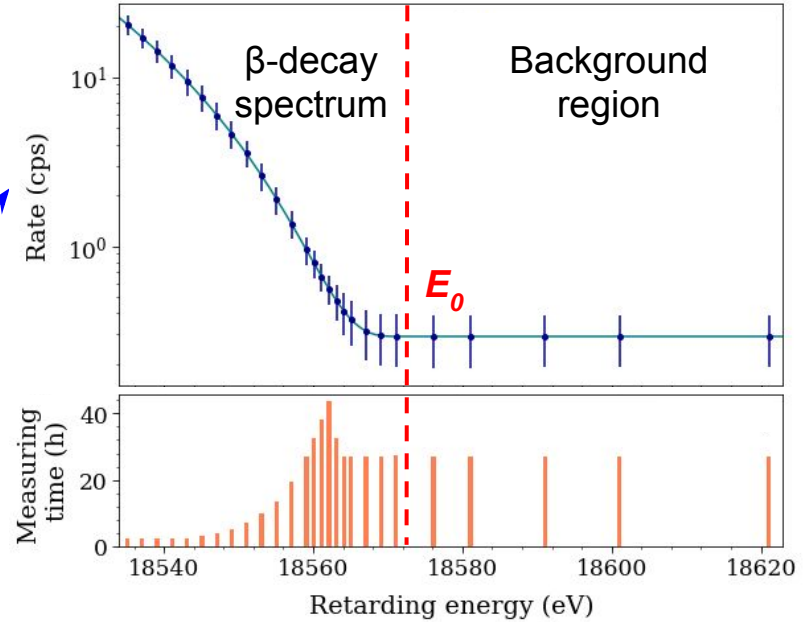
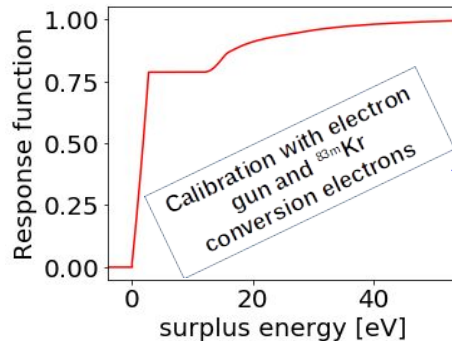
Full system description & commissioning: KATRIN, JINST 16 (2021) T08015

# Modelling the tritium spectrum

- Beta spectrum:  $R_\beta(E; m_\nu^2, E_0)$



- Experimental response:  $f(E - qU)$



$$R(qU) = A \cdot \int_{qU}^{E_0} R_\beta(E; m_\nu^2, E_0) \cdot f(qU, E) dE + R_{bg}$$

- 2-3 hour scans, **O(100)** scans per campaign
- Stack** data points with the **same** measurement conditions
- Analysis window:  $[E_0 - 40 \text{ eV}, E_0 + 135 \text{ eV}]$

# KATRIN data releases

2019:  $m_\nu < 1.1$  eV (90% CL)

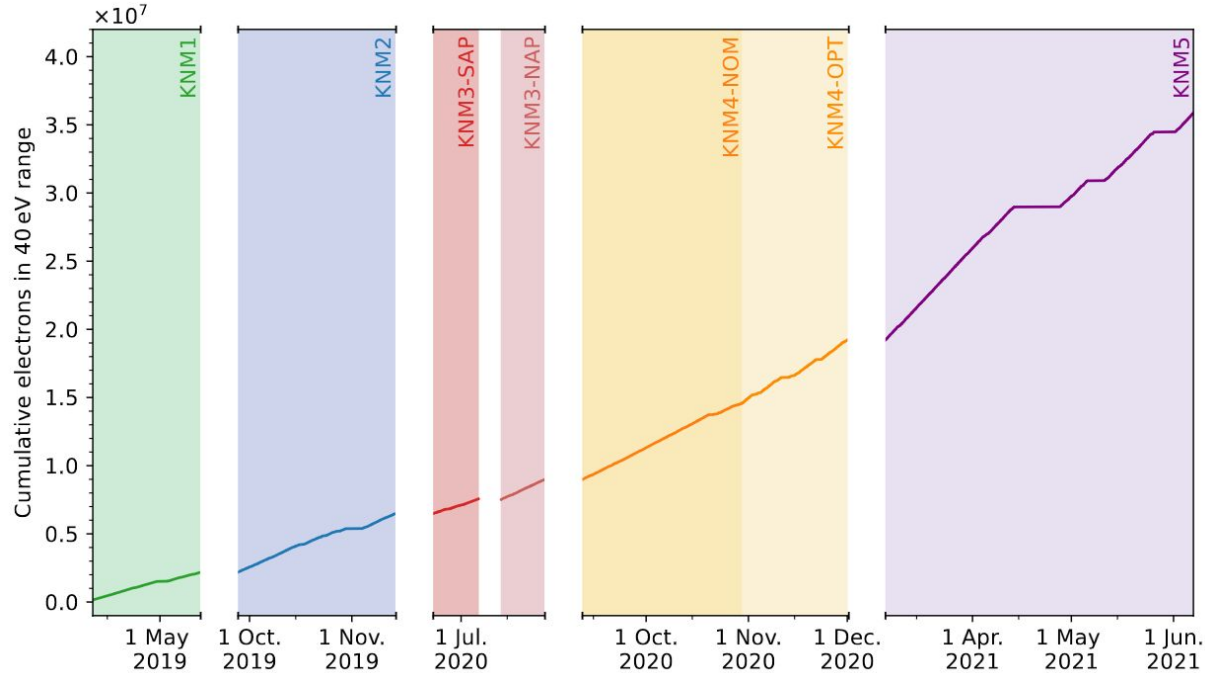
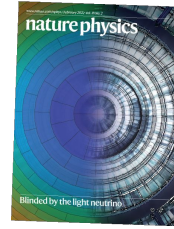
2022:  $m_\nu < 0.8$  eV (90% CL)

- ~6 Mio counts

## Neutrino 2024:

- 259 measurement days
- 1757  $\beta$ -scans
- ~36 Mio counts

Expected sensitivity  $< 0.5$  eV





# Data

36 Mio counts in total

59 stacked spectra with

27

+

28

+

14 x 28

+

28

+

14 x 28

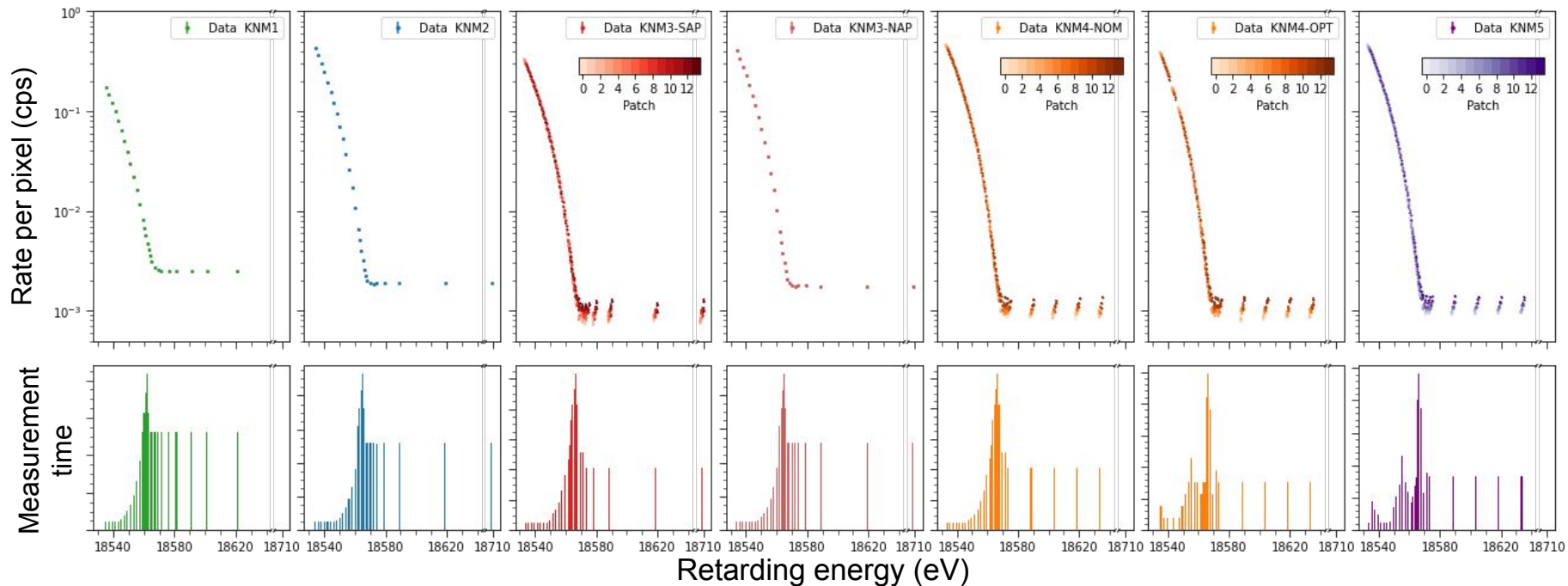
+

14 x 25

+

14 x 28 =

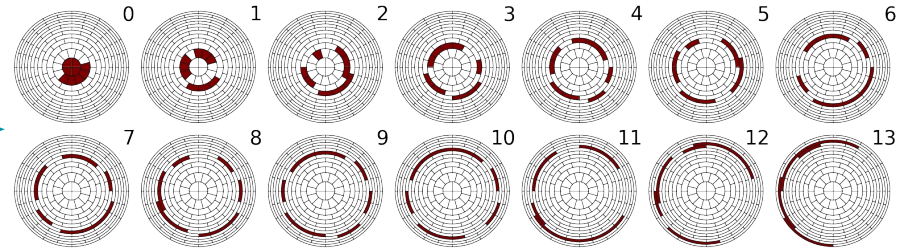
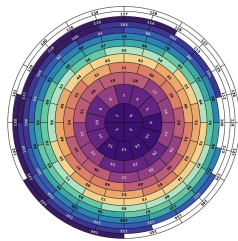
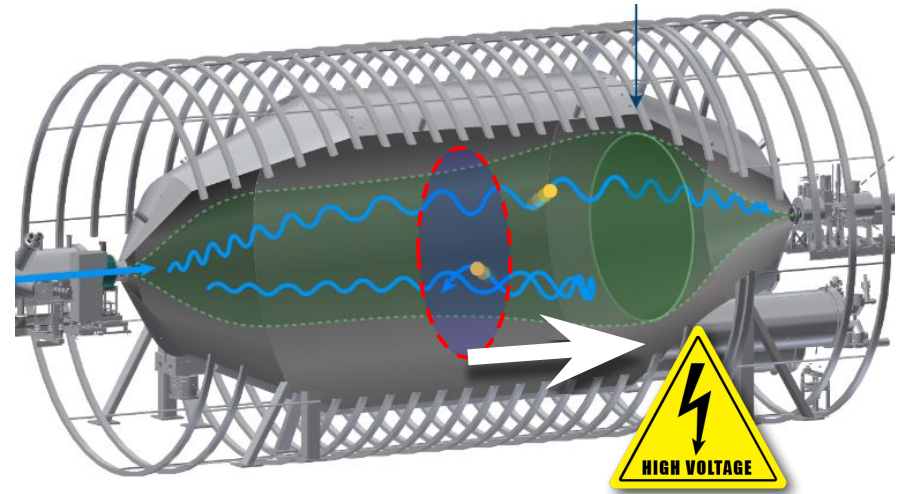
1609 data points



# Experimental improvements in new data (I)

**Factor 2 lower background** using “*shifted analyzing plane*” configuration

- Smaller volume mapped onto detector
- Inhomogeneous EM-fields
  - More segmented data **x 14**
  - **Calibration** of fields needed



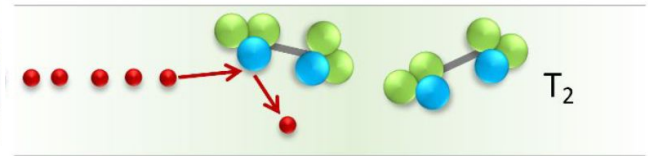
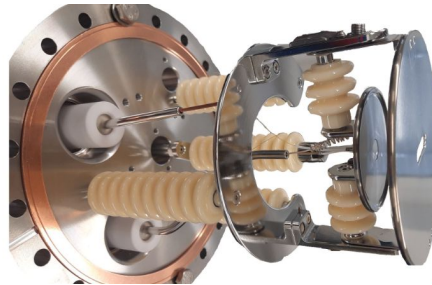
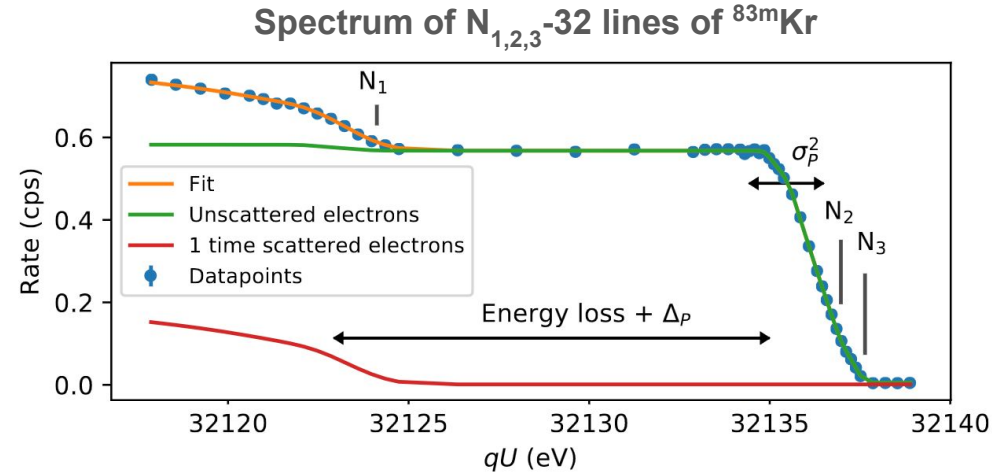
# Experimental improvements in new data (II)

Precise calibration measurements with  $^{83\text{m}}\text{Kr}$  co-circulation:

- Probe of electric potential variation in the source
- Field mapping in the spectrometer
- Source temperature: 30K $\rightarrow$ 80K

And with the **electron gun**:

- Energy loss through scattering
- Tritium gas density

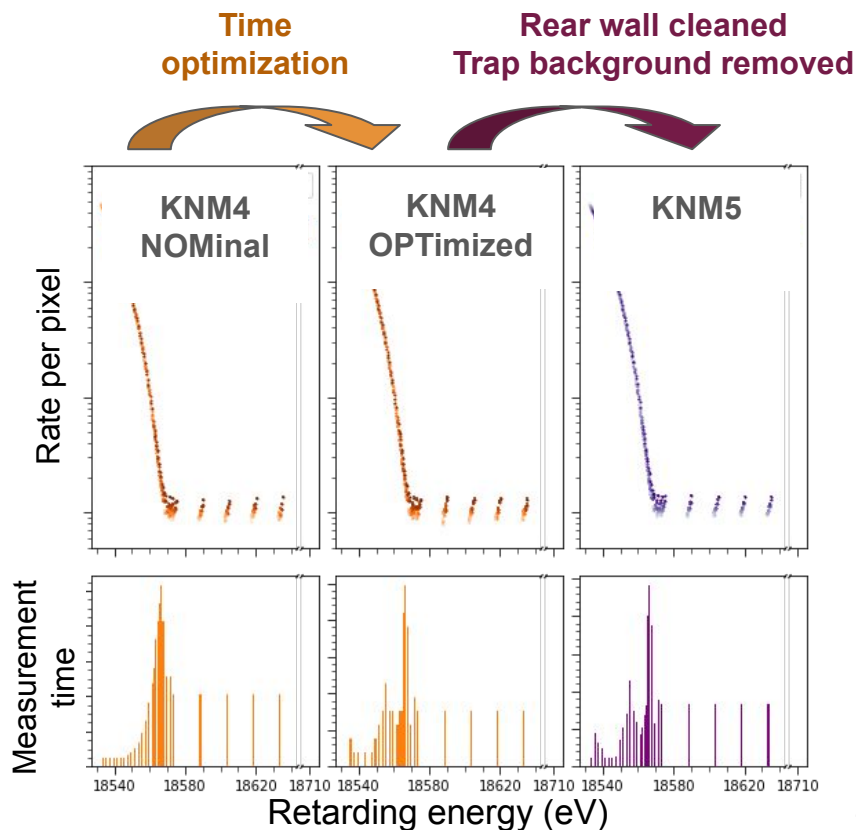


# Experimental improvements in new data (III)

In measurement campaigns 4 and 5:

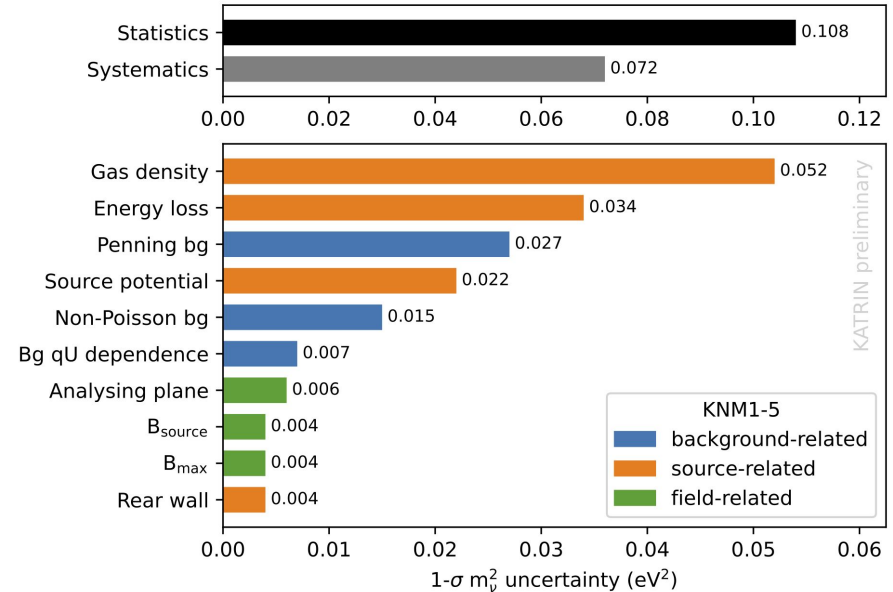
- **Improved** statistical sensitivity by optimized scan-time distribution
- **Eliminated** trapped particle background by lowering pre-spectrometer voltage
- Measured the residual **tritium activity** on the gold-plated **rear wall** and reduced it with ozone cleaning

Poster by  
B. Daniel et al.



# Systematic uncertainties

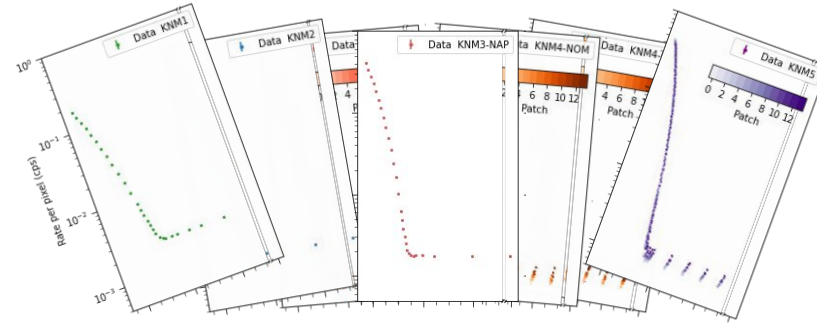
- **Statistical** uncertainties dominate
- Significant reduction of the **background-related** systematics
- Better control over source **scattering**
  - Increased conservative uncertainties in this release
  - Reduced uncertainties in current data
- **Reduction of the molecular final-states** uncertainties
  - Reassessment of theoretical uncertainty estimation: [S. Schneidewind et al., Eur. Phys. J. C 84, 494 \(2024\)](#)



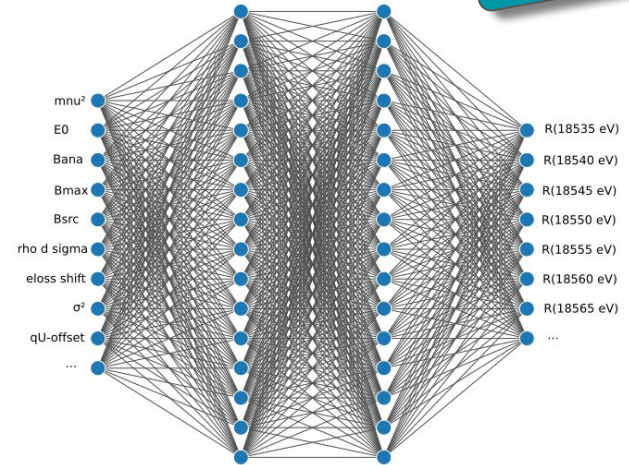
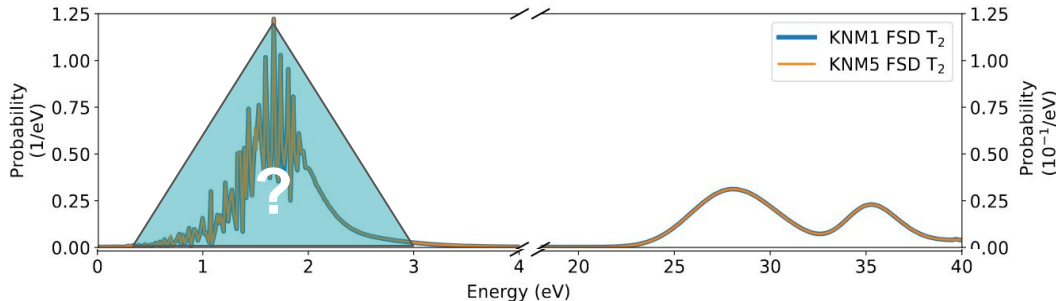


# Analysis challenges

- Highly segmented data (**1609** data points)
- Computationally **expensive** model evaluations
- **144** correlated systematic parameters
- **Two** independent analysis teams and frameworks
  - optimized model evaluation
  - fast model prediction with a neural network
- **Double-layer blinding** scheme
  - fixing analysis procedure on MC data
  - using model blinding, unknown modification of final states

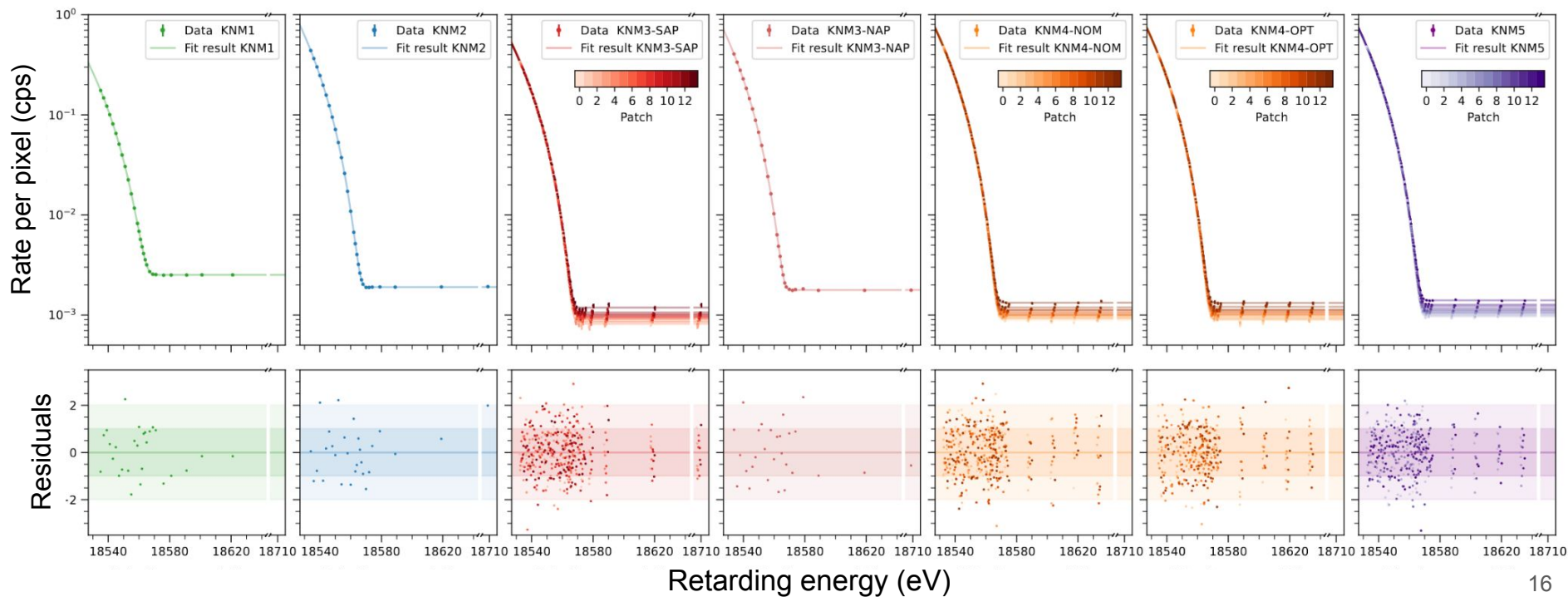


Poster by  
A. Schwemmer



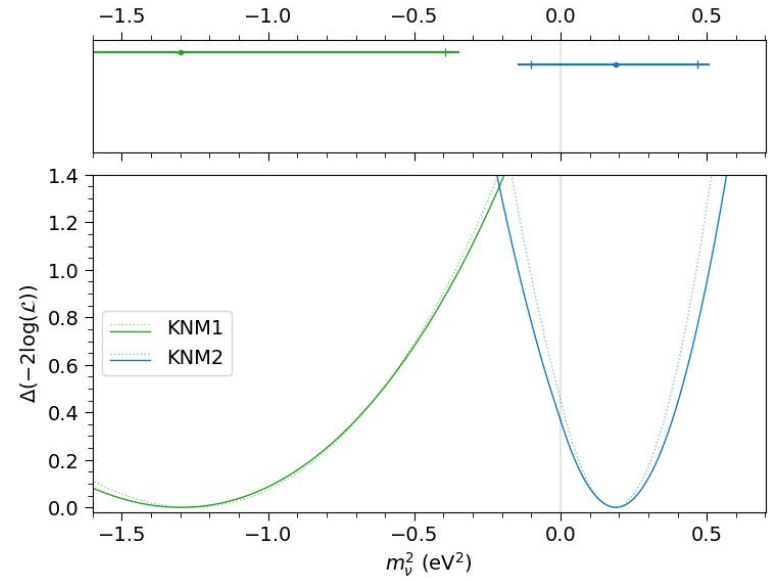
# Fit result

- Simultaneous maximum likelihood fit with common  $m_\nu^2$  parameter
- Excellent goodness-of-fit: **p-value=0.84**



# Fit result

- Best-fit value



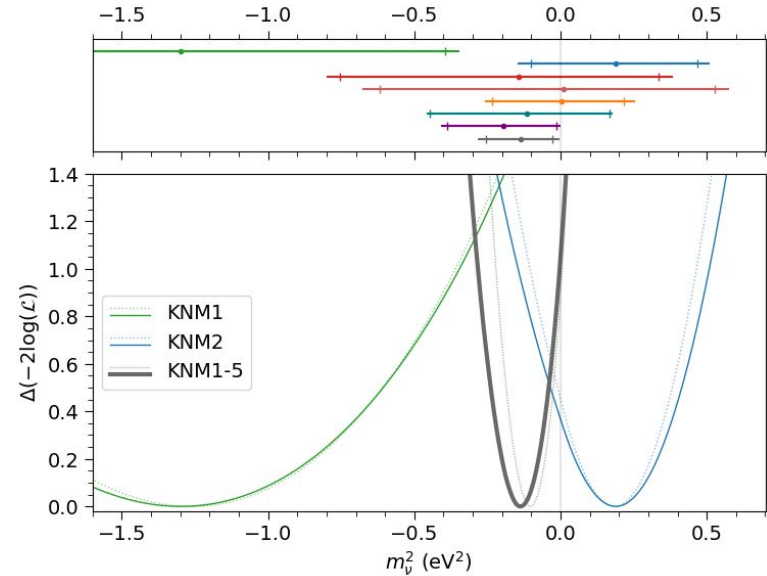


# Fit result

- Best-fit value

$$m_{\nu}^2 = -0.14_{-0.15}^{+0.13} \text{ eV}^2$$

- Negative  $m^2$  estimates allowed by the spectrum model to accommodate statistical fluctuations
- Post-unblinding a data-combination mistake was uncovered →
  - Resolved by splitting **KNM4** into **two** data sets
  - $\sim 0.1 \text{ eV}^2$  impact on  $m^2$



Q-value:  $(18\,575.0 \pm 0.3) \text{ eV}$



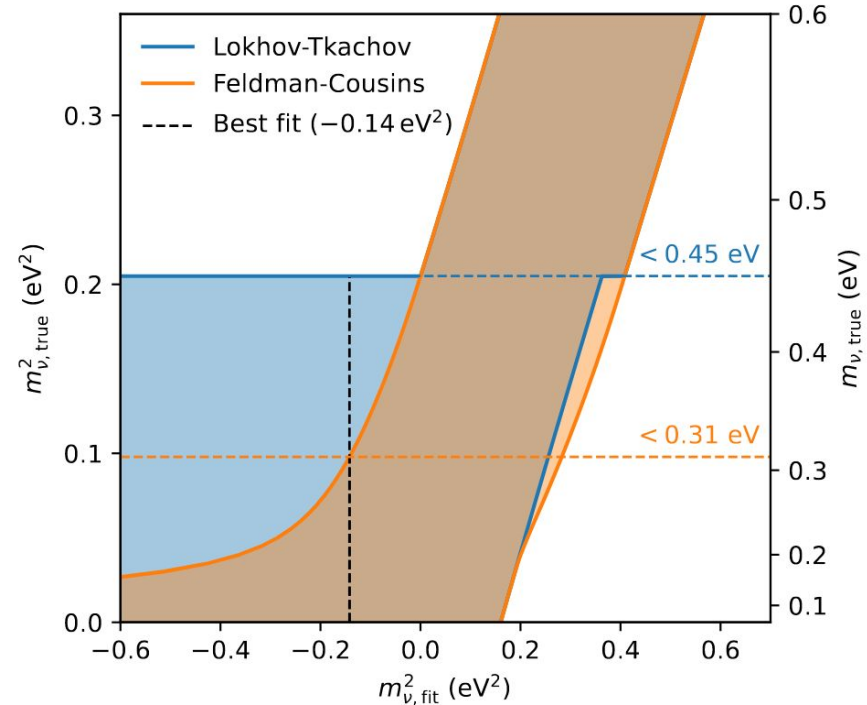
# Confidence interval

- KATRIN's **new** upper limit

$$m_\nu < 0.45 \text{ eV (90 \% CL)}$$

using **Lokhov-Tkachov** construction

- Feldman-Cousins limit:
  - $m_\nu < 0.31 \text{ eV}$  at 90 % CL
  - Shrinking upper limit for negative  $m_\nu^2$
- Bayesian analysis in preparation

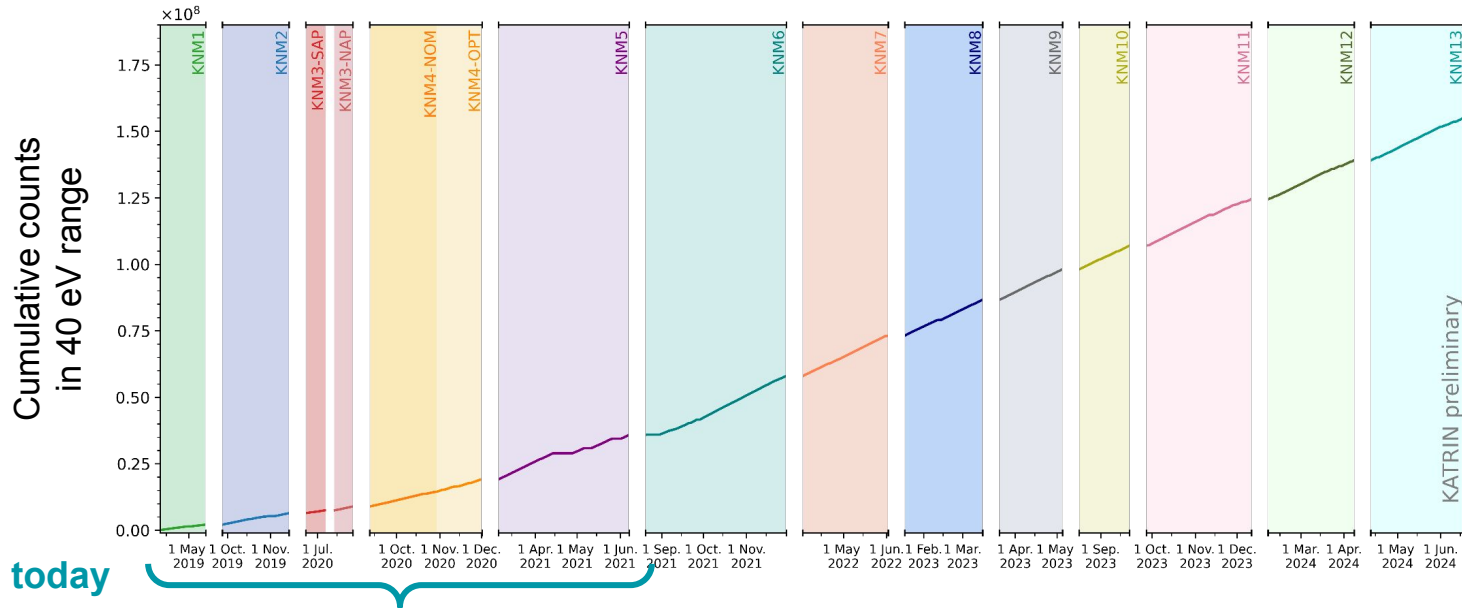


Poster by  
W. Xu



# KATRIN data taking continues

- 13 measurement campaigns completed this Monday, June 17!
- > **150 Mio** counts recorded – **x4** of this release!
- More data to come in **2024-2025** + calibration/systematics improvements



# KATRIN “beyond neutrino mass”

**$\beta$ -spectrum of high statistics and precision**

Is there a fourth (sterile) neutrino?  
**(search for a kink)**

Phys.Rev.Lett. 126 (2021) 9, 091803  
Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022) 7, 072004

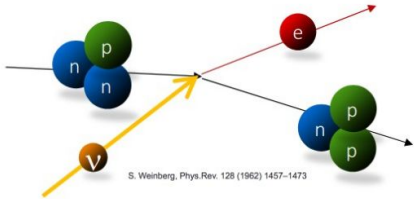
Constrain local density of cosmic relic neutrinos  
**(peak search)**

Search for Lorentz invariance violation  
**(sidereal modulation)**

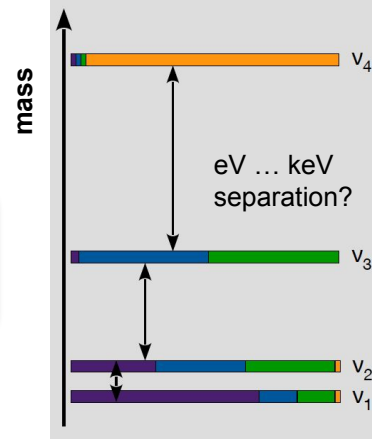
Phys.Rev.D 107 (2023) 8, 082005

Search for exotic interactions  
**(spectrum shape)**

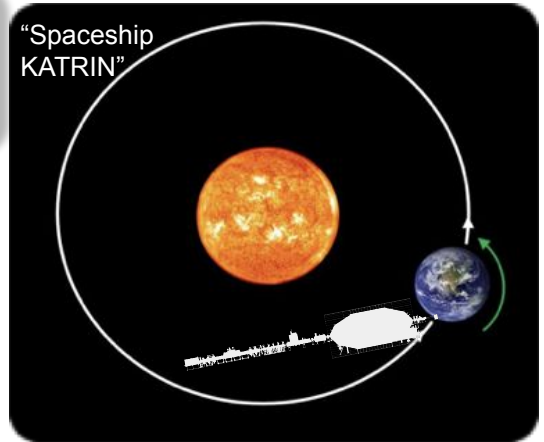
Poster by  
C. Fengler



Phys. Rev. Lett. 129 (2022) 1, 011806



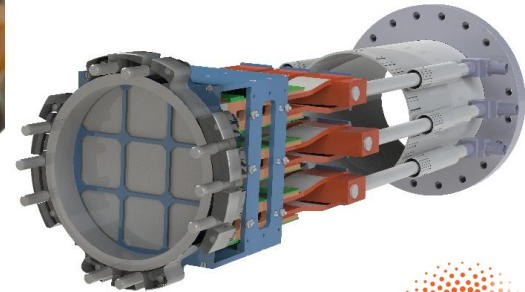
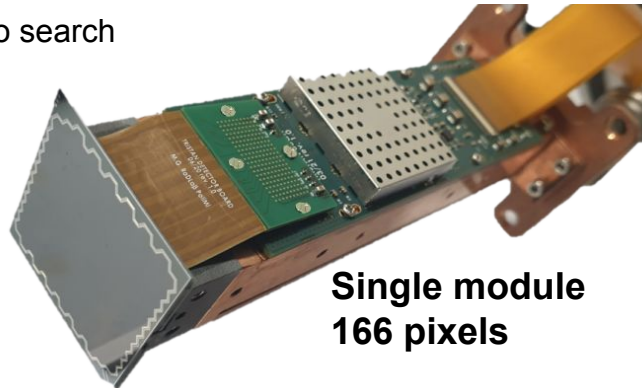
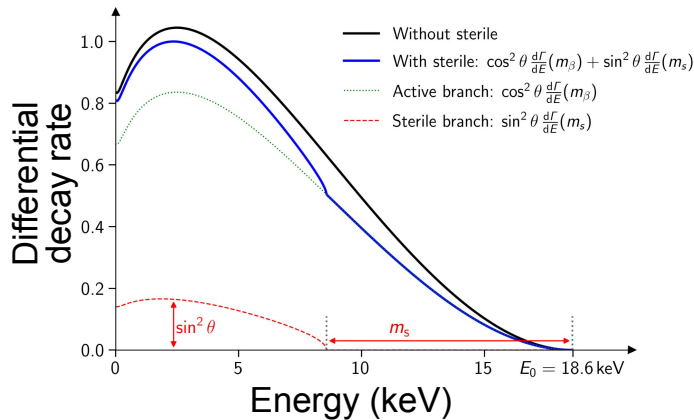
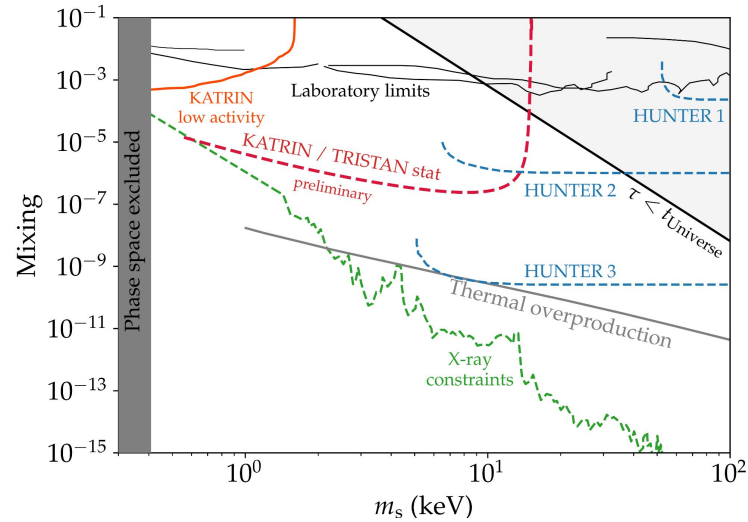
Posters by  
S. Mohanty  
& X. Stribl



# TRISTAN @ KATRIN

Posters by  
D. Siegmann,  
A. Onillon  
& M. Descher

- Search for keV sterile neutrinos
  - Novel SDD array for high rates
- Target sensitivity to mixing of  $10^{-6}$ 
  - Ongoing systematic and modeling studies
- Timeline
  - 2024 – Assembling a full detector replica
  - 2026 – Installation in the KATRIN beamline
  - 2026-2027 – keV sterile neutrino search



S. Mertens et al., J. Phys. G46 (2019); S. Mertens et al., J. Phys. G48 (2020); D. Siegmann et al., J. Phys. G (2024)

# Conclusion and Outlook

Preprint →

<https://www.katrin.kit.edu/130.php#Anker0>



**New KATRIN release** improves direct neutrino-mass bound by a factor of 2:

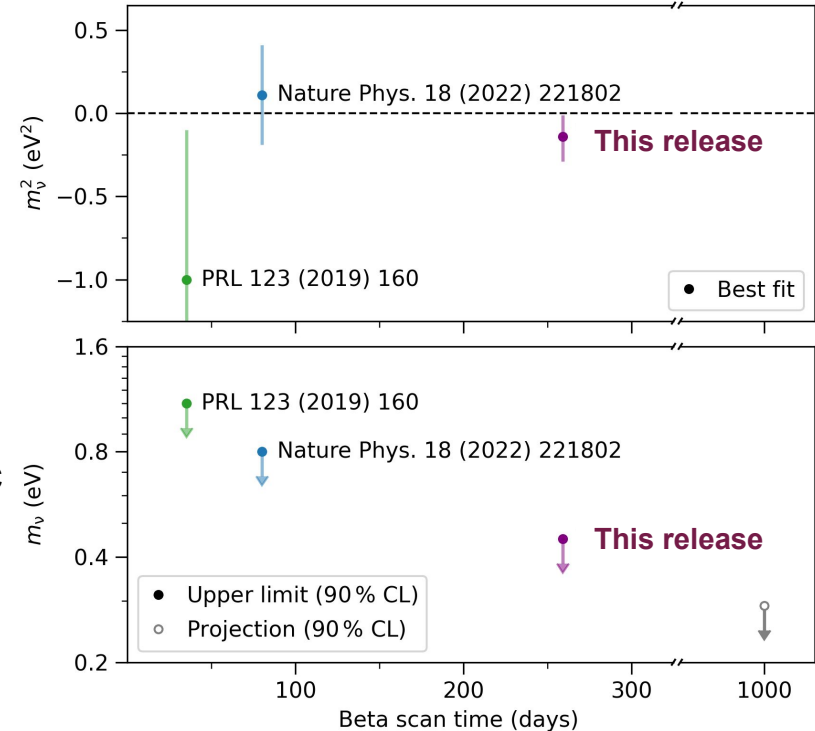
$$m_\nu < 0.45 \text{ eV (90 \% CL)}$$

## Ongoing analysis:

- 70 % of total anticipated data recorded, improvements in systematics
- Several BSM physics searches: eV-sterile, exotic interactions, light bosons, relic  $\nu$ ...  $\Rightarrow$  stay tuned!

## Ongoing data taking through 2025 $\rightarrow$ $\Sigma$ 1000 days

- target sensitivity below 0.3 eV

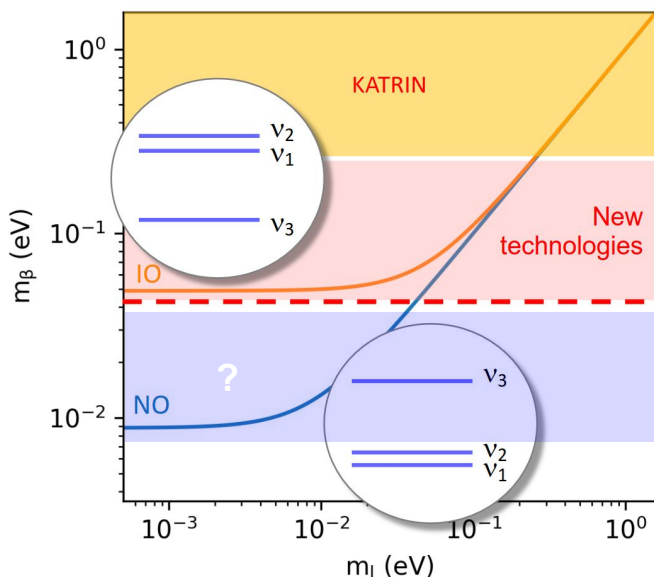


# Future perspectives

## 2026-2027: keV sterile neutrino search with **TRISTAN@KATRIN**

- Preparations for hardware upgrades, analysis is getting ready for the data

## 2027+: **R&D** towards the ultimate neutrino mass determination



- Differential methods, atomic tritium, background reduction
- **KATRIN++** mission:
  - Identify and develop scalable technology for the next neutrino mass experiments
  - Use **KATRIN infrastructure** for R&D phase (~7 years)
  - We invite the community to join this effort!

D. Hinz &  
T. Geigle

A. Nava,  
M. Biassoni,  
G. Gagliardi

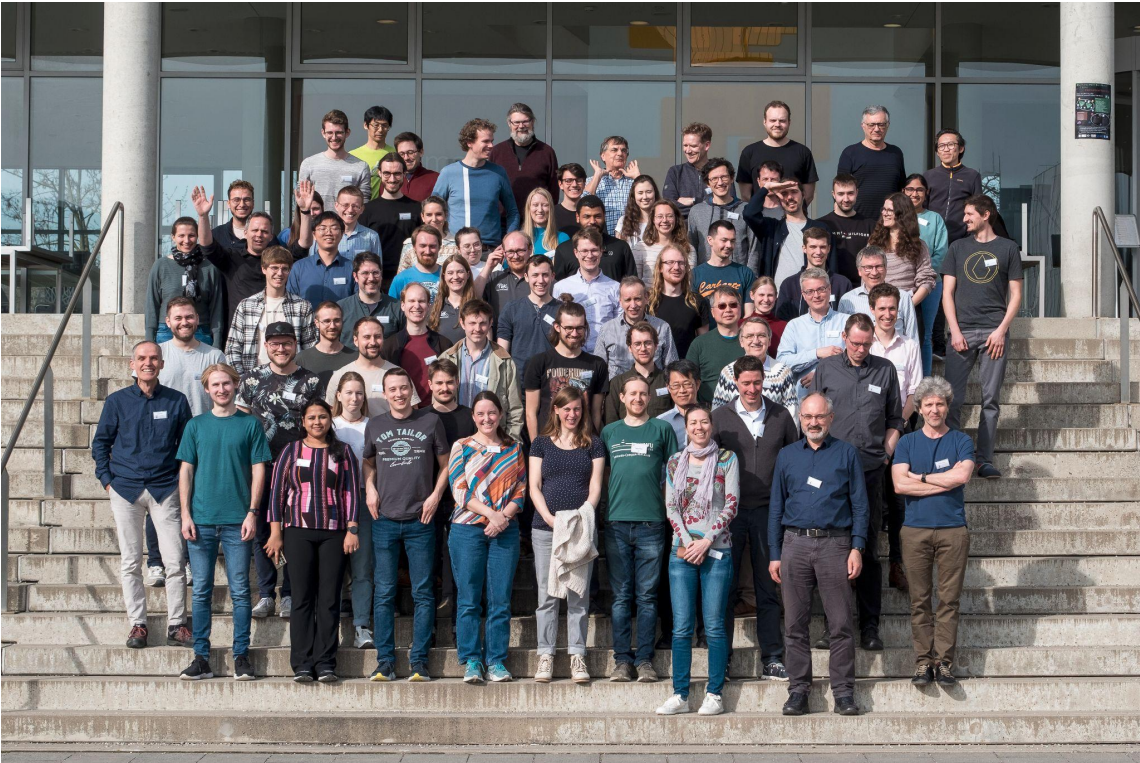
F. Adam  
&  
S. Kempf

C. Rodenbeck  
& L. Thorne

N. Gutknecht



# KATRIN collaboration



Collaboration meeting, March 2024, TUM

